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(d) whether it is a fact that between the van and the shop of D. Kanji Bros. there were no persons on the public road except the picketers and the Police men;

(e) whether it is a fact that the passers-by who stopped on the public road after the beating commenced were about 50 yards away from the picketers;

(f) whether it is a fact that they were given 10 or 12 severe beatings by the cane;

(g) whether they showed the least signs of violence or retaliation; and

(h) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) Two picketers picketed the foreign cloth shop with six other volunteers and some on-lookers standing nearby.

(b) The Police warned the assembly to disperse, but the volunteers and picketers did not move. They were therefore dispersed with light canes.

(c) No. The van was kept near the Wenlock Hospital compound wall.

(d) The facts reported are otherwise.

(e) When the Police arrived and warned the crowd of on-lookers to disperse they moved on and stopped about 50 yards away, except the picketers and volunteers.

(f) One picketer had ten cuts and the other had fourteen. The beatings were not severe. The picketers were discharged immediately after they were sent to the hospital.

(g) They showed a determined disobedience to the orders of the Police to desist from committing the offence.

(h) None.

Alleged Police excesses in South Kanara.

*5 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: With reference to question No. 1237 answered on 24th March 1932, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what action has been taken with reference to the complaints against Police excesses at Kanhangod on 11th February 1932 and other places made by some of the leading vakils of Kasaragod;

(b) whether any enquiry was held into the same; if so, who were all the persons that were examined; and

(c) whether any of the complainants were examined or were given any opportunity to adduce evidence; if not, why not?

A.—(a) The letter from the vakils of Kasaragod, a copy of which was laid on the table of the House on 24th March 1932 with reference to clause (a) of question No. 1237 makes three main allegations and they are answered below:—

(1) At Kanhangod on 11th February 1932 a crowd numbering about 50 gathered to watch the picketing. The picketers and the crowd were

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ordered to disperse and refusing to do so were dispersed by force. No person was beaten who was not a member of the crowd at the time it was dispersed and no person was singled out for attack. V. Chatukutti Nayar who was then the "dictator" of the Kasaragod Taluk Congress Association and Madhavan Nayar, a Congress volunteer, were among the picketers.

(2) At Pilicode on 11th February 1932 Naraina Adiodi was beaten during the course of a forcible dispersal but was not beaten into unconsciousness when at some distance from the crowd. He was a few yards away when the dispersal began but then advanced as though to encourage the picketers. He was warned to go away but defied the order and was therefore dispersed together with the rest. He subsequently feigned unconsciousness but was able to get up and go away after a very short interval. Harishwaran Tirumumbu was not singled out and chased away but was a member of the crowd that was dispersed. No person of the name of Madhavan Nayar was beaten at Pilicode but a person of that name was among the crowd dispersed by force at Kanhangod on the same day. He was not intentionally struck on the head.

(3) It is not the case that the injured were left unattended where they fell. While the Inspector was arranging to have those who had fallen removed to the hospital they got up one by one and walked away. Nobody was seriously injured, as canes and not lathis were used to disperse the crowds.

(*b*) & (*c*) If any person was prepared to substantiate a complaint, it was open to him to prefer a complaint in court. In the absence of any individual complaint, the District Magistrate did not examine any complainant, but satisfied himself that the allegations were incorrect or exaggerated.

Alleged beating of three persons at the Washermanpet police station lock-up on 3rd April 1932.

* 6 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a statement signed by Manicka Nayakar, M. Kulshekar Nayakar and V. Krishnaswami Nayakar stating that they were beaten by the Police in the Washermanpet Police station lock-up on 3rd April 1932;

(*b*) whether the Government held any enquiry on the same; if so, who the persons examined were and what the result is of the said enquiry; and